

4 March 2008

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Local Education Authorities
Directors of Education
Customer Accounts Managers
All centres

**For the attention of all staff responsible for the delivery of
National Qualifications in Technical Education**

Action by Recipient
Response required
Note and pass on
✓ Note — update/information only

Contact: Derek Middleton at Glasgow
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Dear Colleague

Technical Education — update

This is to update you on current developments in Technical Education subjects, ie Craft and Design, Product Design, Graphic Communication, Practical Craft Skills and Technological Studies.

Graphic Communication

Revisions to Intermediate 2 Graphic Communication for session 2008/2009

Following the introduction of Intermediate 1 Graphic Communication, the Intermediate 2 Course will be revised to improve progression from the new Intermediate 1. These changes will not take effect until session 2008/2009, ie the 2009 examination. Revised Arrangements will be published by the end of March.

The main changes are:

- ◆ Inclusion of manual item in the Course Folio which will be renamed ‘Graphics Presentation Folio’ in line with the Intermediate 1 Folio.
- ◆ Inclusion of an Outcome on Colour Theory in Technical Graphics 1.
- ◆ Removal of location drawings from Technical Graphics 2.
- ◆ Additional Core Skills certification in Technical Graphics Units.
- ◆ Re-coding of Technical Graphics Units as a result of Core Skills changes.
- ◆ Re-wording of Outcomes and Performance Criteria for clarification.

- ◆ Inclusion of detailed tables of mandatory content, again for clarification.

Practical Craft Skills

Course Projects

Course Projects can now be accessed from the secure area of SQA's website, which SQA Co-ordinators have access to. Projects currently available are:

Woodworking — Clock (Int 1 and 2), Wall Cabinet (Single Door) (Int 1), Wall Cabinet (Single Door) (Int 2), Stool (Int 1), Stool (Int 2), Granddaughter Clock (Int 1), Granddaughter Clock (Int 2).

Engineering — Bike Repair Clamp (Int 1 and 2), Wind Vane (Int 1), Wind Vane (Int 2), BBQ Stand (Int 1 and 2), Amplifier Box and Audio Amplifier (Int 1 and 2).

Centres wishing to use their own projects are advised to have them prior verified. Prior verification forms are available from the Practical Craft Skills page of SQA's website.

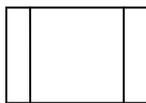
Verification

Visiting Verification will take place from the end of March. Final marks must be submitted by 9 May.

Technological Studies

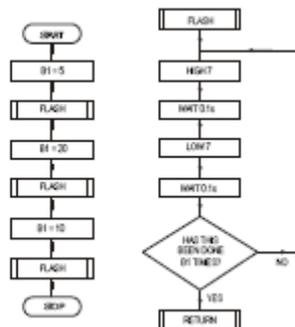
Use of subprogram symbol in flowcharts

Although there is an ISO standard for flowchart symbols, in practice many organisations create their own 'house style'. The old data booklets defined the use of the symbol:



as being the start or end (ie terminator points) of a subprogram. Most organisations use this symbol to represent the calling of a subprogram and some of the available learning and teaching resources use the symbol for both purposes.

eg: from the Higher Still support notes:



The 2007 Higher Technological Studies paper has followed the latter practice which is implicit in the new data booklets as the Standard Grade and Intermediate 2 booklet retains the definition as entry to and exit from a subprogram whereas the Higher and Advanced Higher booklets lists the second use. This was intended to show that Standard Grade and Intermediate 2 candidates would work with simple programs and subprograms in isolation whereas at later levels they would work with programs which call up subprograms. Although we may need to consider changing this practice in the future, we will continue to use the symbol for both purposes until further notice.

Revised NAB Assessments

Revised versions of all NABs are now available for Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher Units. The revised versions incorporate all reduction in assessment advice and should be used by centres from now on.

Product Design

Responses to question papers

The Principal Assessor has asked me to remind you that marking instructions available from the website do not contain sample answers. In particular, bullet point answers do not tend to attract maximum marks in Higher Product Design.

Submission of Design Assignments / Extended Case Studies

I would like to remind you that candidates must sit the same level of Design Assignment as the question paper that they will be sitting.

Please ensure that candidates have written their name and school on the reverse side of each page of their Design Assignment or Case Study. It is also important that pages are numbered, eg 'sheet 1 of 8', 'sheet 2 of 8', etc up to the number of sheets being submitted. The submission date for Design Assignments and Extended Case Studies is 24 April.

Estimates for Product Design Courses

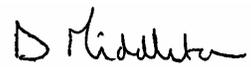
I would like to remind you that estimates for all Product Design Courses should take account of estimated performance in the Design Assignment or the Extended Case Study as well as estimated performance in the question paper component. The submission date for estimates is 24 April.

Return of Design Assignments

Centres wishing to request return of Design Assignments must do so by 30 September. Confirmation of the deadline and costs will be sent to centres nearer the time by our Operations staff in Dalkeith.

I hope that you have found the information in this letter helpful. If you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Middleton', written in a cursive style.

Derek Middleton
Qualifications Manager
Computing and Technical Education